

# **Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)**

## **Program Purpose Areas**

The goal of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG) program is to reduce juvenile offending through accountability-based programs focused on juvenile offenders and the juvenile justice system. To meet that goal and strengthen the juvenile justice system, a state or unit of local government may use JABG funds to perform the activities below.

1. Developing, implementing, and administering graduated sanctions for juvenile offenders.
2. Building, expanding, renovating, or operating temporary or permanent juvenile correction, detention, or community corrections facilities.
3. Hiring juvenile court judges, probation officers, and court-appointed defenders and special advocates, and funding pretrial services (including mental health screening and assessment) for juvenile offenders to promote the effective and expeditious administration of the juvenile justice system.
4. Hiring additional prosecutors so that more cases involving violent juvenile offenders can be prosecuted and case backlogs reduced.
5. Providing funding to enable prosecutors to address drug, gang, and youth violence problems more effectively and for technology, equipment, and training to help prosecutors identify and expedite the prosecution of violent juvenile offenders.
6. Establishing and maintaining training programs for law enforcement and other court personnel with respect to preventing and controlling juvenile crime.
7. Establishing juvenile gun courts for the prosecution and adjudication of juvenile firearms offenders.
8. Establishing drug court programs for juvenile offenders that provide continuing judicial supervision over juvenile offenders with substance abuse problems and integrate administration of other sanctions and services for such offenders.
9. Establishing and maintaining a system of juvenile records designed to promote public safety.
10. Establishing and maintaining interagency information sharing programs that enable the juvenile and criminal justice systems, schools, and social services agencies to make more informed decisions regarding the early identification, control, supervision, and treatment of juveniles who repeatedly commit serious delinquent or criminal acts.
11. Establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs designed to reduce recidivism among juveniles who are referred by law enforcement personnel or agencies.
12. Establishing and maintaining programs to conduct risk and needs assessments that facilitate effective early intervention and the provision of comprehensive services, including mental health screening and treatment and substance abuse testing and treatment, to juvenile offenders.
13. Establishing and maintaining accountability-based programs that are designed to enhance school safety, which programs may include research-based bullying, cyberbullying, and gang prevention programs.
14. Establishing and maintaining restorative justice programs.
15. Establishing and maintaining programs to enable juvenile courts and juvenile probation officers to be more effective and efficient in holding juvenile offenders accountable and reducing recidivism.
16. Hiring detention and corrections personnel, and establishing and maintaining training programs for such personnel, to improve facility practices and programming.
17. Establishing, improving, and coordinating pre-release and post-release systems and programs to facilitate the successful re-entry of juvenile offenders from state and local custody in the community.